

6092
Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Kovach read the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided, indicating the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda, which notice was posted, made available to newspapers, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Clinton in accordance with Section 3(d) of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975.”

Mayor Kovach welcomed the public to the public meeting and explained how the meeting will be run by reading the following statement :

NJSA 10:4-8(b) authorizes municipalities to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms. Recently adopted P.L. 2020, c.11 amends OPMA to clarify that in times of emergency public bodies may vote, accept public comment and cause a meeting to be open to the public via electronic means.

The Town of Clinton is a public meeting as well as using ZOOM Video Meetings. Please be aware that this meeting is being recorded for the public record.

Please use the chat feature in ZOOM to indicate that you wish to be recognized for a comment or a question. You must provide your name and address to be recognized. You can also type in your questions. Feel free going forward to email councilmeeting@clintonnj.gov with any questions or concerns between meetings.

Please feel free to reach out with a note at jkovach@clintonnj.gov anytime!

RESOLUTION #44-22 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to enter into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and gain advice from Counsel.

RESOLUTION # 44-22
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, declares it to be the public policy of the State to ensure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

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NOW, **THEREFORE**, BE IT **RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*:

A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon:

_____);

_____A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

_____A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof (Specify contract:

_____A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (the general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is: Clinton Township Sewerage Authority and the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.)

Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists);

_____Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; (The employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is _____

OR _____ the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists.;

_____Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Town Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Town or any other entity with respect to said discussion. That time is currently estimated to be: _____
(estimated length of time) OR upon the occurrence of _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Vote all ayes

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Motion carried

Council returned to the regular Council Meeting at 8:07 p.m. with a motion made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CTSA SETTLEMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, authorizing the Mayor to sign the sewer utility agreement with Clinton Township Sewerage Authority.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach
Abstain: Bruno, Perloff

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions Bruno and Perloff
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to approve the minutes of December 22, 2021 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Bruno, Perloff)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF RE-ORGANIZATION MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to accept the monthly reports for the month of December and year end reports as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Kovach expressed her gratitude to the Department of Public Works for their dedication to the Town of Clinton this past weekend. Thursday into Friday they took care of the roads with the snow that night and Friday through Sunday they dealt with three water main breaks, trying to locate the leaks on the mains and service leaks in the frigid weather. It is not often spoken, but they are very much appreciated!

Mayor Kovach asked that residents be mindful of parking on the streets during snow season. Parking on streets impedes plowing and cars will be ticketed.

Offices had hoped to re-open to the public, but due to the surge in COVID cases, offices will be kept closed through January. There will be a Volunteer Fair event at the Community Center as previously scheduled, Monday evening, January 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to wear masks.

6095

Cleaning protocols are in place and the Governor extended the cleaning protocol for another 45 days. The Town is following the state's requirements and will re-open when advised.

CLINTON COMMUNITY YOUTH ATHLETICS (CCYA)

Councilman Perloff, council liaison to the Recreation Committee, read the following statement:

Previously, as the Recreation Commission, in conjunction with the Clinton Community Youth Athletic League (CCYA), and led by volunteers throughout town, a basketball program was run for the children of the community.

As of February 10th, 2021 by Ord. No. 21-05, the Recreation Commission was, for lack of a better word, "changed" to a Recreation Committee and as such, the Mayor and Council is now required to take certain actions related to the events held by the Recreation Committee. In the case of CCYA, I have been advised that the Mayor and Council are required to designate individuals that will be present at the events as the Town Representatives. In discussing this with our Town Administration, Mayor Kovach and Bill Colantano (whom has been delegated to lead CCYA this year), the conclusion is to specifically name the volunteer coaches (provided by CCYA) that will serve as the Town Representatives. Further, this will ensure that the towns insurance obligations are met to cover these events.

Therefore, I, (Mr. Perloff) would like to make a motion that we name the following persons as Town Representatives for the basketball league:

Bill Colantano	Christina Hill
Eric Hill	Jose Salazar
Joe Harris	Jonathan Peck
Dave Stocker	Brian Parente
Caryn Hissner	Brad Cohen
Sean Rogan	Pete Brown
Gus Khamish	Kyle Just
Kyle Decker	Brian Harris
Jon Lapoff	Rebecca Beder
Joe Wendel	

Motion was seconded by Mr. Bruno.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #42-22 – 2022 BASKETBALL REFEREE SALARIES

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adopt Resolution #42-22 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #42-22
2022 SALARY RESOLUTION

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clinton in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows:

That the following position titles within the Town of Clinton in the County of Hunterdon, the respective salaries or compensation set forth below are hereby fixed as the maximum amounts to be paid for the year 2022 for the Basketball Program:

6096

2020

POSITION

Adult Referee
Youth Referee
Scorekeeper

SALARY

\$55.00/Game
\$15.00/Game
\$10.00/Game

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #43-22 – OVERPAYMENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #43-22 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 43-22

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has received overpayments for the following block and lots,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to refund the overpayment to Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service c/o Centralized Refunds, P.O. Box 9202, Coppell, Texas, 75019-9978, for the following accounts:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
5	20	Williams, Ryan & Amy	\$ 2,832.37
29.01	15	Mealey, Karen & Michael	\$ 3,292.01
31	29	Mincks, Steven & Elizabeth Labor	\$ 3,836.08

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector remove the overpayments on the above block and lots for the 4th quarter 2021.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

BANNER REQUESTS

Banner requests have been submitted by the Red Mill Museum Village for several event dates:

Military Heritage Weekend – April 2, 3, 2022
Children’s Summer Program – June 27, July 5, 11, 18, August 8, 15, 2022
Vintage Auto Show – May 22, 2022
British Car Show – June 4, 2022
Family Program Day – August 7, 2022
Haunted Red Mill – October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 2022
Craft Fair & decorated trees - November 25, 26, 27, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the dates as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

6097

A banner requested by the Friendly Son's of St. Patrick's for the parade to be held March 13, 2022. Banner dates February 28 through March 14, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the dates requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Mayor Kovach proudly displayed her Irish colors sash that she will be wearing for the parade this year, Mayor Janice Kovach, Clinton, NJ!

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Virtual Post Office Job Fair to be held January 13, 2022 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Registration required.
2. The New Jersey's Governor's Community Award "We Value our Veteran's" Program. Award application and requirements available in the Clerk's office.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Business Administrator

Mr. Phelan thanked Mayor Kovach for her kinds words directed to the Department of Public Works and commented on the benefits of cross training the department.

Councilman Humphrey

1. Platinum Club met and created a budget and set the framework for Friday Fun Events! Movies and games to be held beginning at the municipal building in the late afternoon hours.
2. Bill Honachefsky will be doing a historic presentation.
3. 275 calls for the year 2021. Clinton Fire Department held their meeting January 3, 2022. Election of officers has Jeff Hedden as Chief, Dave Durand as Deputy Chief, other appointments were made for Jason Mayer, Bailey Pyle, and engineers Steve Seguine, Bill Langston, Steve Bardecker and Wes Hockin. The group formed a fire truck committee as they are looking into a new fire truck.
4. Environmental Commission did not meet this month.
5. The Volunteer Fair is on for Monday, January 17, 2022 at the Community Center. Precautions are being taken and attendees are asked to wear masks and masks will be available to anyone in need of one. Great representation is scheduled to attend, 18-20 organizations. Extension cords will be available, set up at 4:00, fair 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
6. Newsletter committee is asking for articles in earlier than February 3 so that the newsletter can be sent to printer and mailed in time for receiving the beginning of March.

7. Economic Development held their meeting January 11, a full house with much enthusiasm. Welcome to Councilmen Kyle Perloff and Ross Traphagen to the Committee. The final draft for the stable economic plan is due with comments by Sunday to the research company. A full 6098 presentation is planned for the second meeting in February in a Town Hall setting and invite special guests from around the County. The committee is looking to create a brand to hang their efforts on as they continue to discuss pop up shops, and signage.
8. Mr. Humphrey also welcomed Kyle Perloff and Nick Bruno to the fold and sees a positive future!

Councilman Traphagen

Economic Development discussed many good ideas and has some interesting goals for the future.

Rescue Squad – 388 calls for the month of December. Frank Setnicky is now a full time paid day chief. January 1, 2022, Hampton joined the squad, South Branch Emergency Services is growing in a positive direction.

Councilwoman Dineen

Roads met on June 7 and discussed a recent suggest to adding flags to mid street crosswalks. West Main Street is a State highway so the committee is checking with the insurance company and the Police Chief for their input and will report back.

Land Use Board – Met January 4 for their re-organization meeting and regular meeting to follow. Craig Sailer remains as Chairman, Jim Smith as Vice Chair. The Board welcomed two new members Jonas DeVita and Jeremy Padmos. The Board approved a revised site plans submission for the Moebus Tract, extended to June 15, 2022.

Dr. Seth Cohen and Business Administrator Mrs. Wang attended to discuss their renovation plans for the playground.

Councilman Bruno

Board of Health – Free Rabies Clinic to be held Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the municipal barn. Pre-registration is encouraged. Mr. Bruno also reached out to Flemington OEM coordinator, who is currently handling testing to county employees and local residents. Mr. Bruno would like to possibly get a COVID testing center available to Clinton residents. Councilwoman Johnson offered to give Mr. Bruno contact information for Somerset County, a center was set up at Raritan Valley Community Center.

Roads – Haver Farm Road will be paved later this year when temperatures rise above 50.

Building & Grounds – a resident had a dead tree fall on his children’s swing set and fence. His property backs up to Hunts Mill Park. The Town’s insurance company has been notified. Town is deciding how to handle the dead ash trees in that area.

Shade Tree Committee has not yet met this year.

Councilwoman Johnson

Summer Rec is scheduled to run July 5 through July 19, 2022. Thank you to former Councilwoman Intrabartola for pulling it all together. There will be full day and half day sessions and will be open to

incoming Kindergarten students! Registration closes February 11, 2022. The search for a new director and counselors is on and students in 7th grade going into 8th grade can volunteer.

6099

Councilwomen Intrabartola and Johnson applied on behalf of the Town of Clinton is a recipient of the FY 2021-2022 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Awards program in the amount of \$70,000 to revitalize the park!

Councilman Humphrey and Councilwomen Intrabartola and Johnson nominated Mayor Kovach for a nationwide Small Town America, Civic Plus Citizen Award for her volunteerism to the Town of Clinton and the State of New Jersey. Thousands of nominations were made and Mayor Kovach was awarded #1 of 100! Councilwoman Johnson read the submission that was sent in on Mayor Kovach's behalf as follows:

The number of lives that Janice Kovach has touched is impressive, but it HOW she touched people that makes her truly special. She is equally as passionate leading the NJ League of Municipalities as she is racing with costumed children with a broken foot; working on the New Jersey Film Commission as she is emptying dozens of overflowing Main Street trash cans during the weekend; from being a three term Mayor to being repeatedly dunked in a dunk tank to raise. She takes all calls, addresses any problems, and makes each interaction feel special.

Kovach currently serves as Mayor of Clinton, New Jersey, and the President of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. From 2004-2006 she was a councilwoman in Clinton. She has also served as the Director of the New Jersey Division on Women, and has actively volunteered as a Trustee of the Red Mill Museum Village, as President and Trustee of the CPS Partners in Education Foundation, and on the boards of the Girl Scouts Heart of NJ, United Way Women's Leadership Council and the Women's Heart Foundation. She was also an appointee to the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council and was a Leadership NJ Fellow (Class of 2009). And on top of this, she Founded the Rivertown Film Festival and is a two time TEDx speaker.

She has put her advocacy into action as a member of the following boards:

- Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board
- Gender Parity Council and the NJ Commission on Women Veterans
- Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Assault
- Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence
- New Jersey Commission on the Status of Women

As a feminist, Janice understands the important role women play in inspiring other women to recognize their strengths and ability to lead. She speaks about empowerment and resilience, encouraging women to speak up and speak out to improve their corner of the world. Janice believes that when women "have a seat at the table where decisions are being made" everyone benefits. That is why she devotes so much time to mentor women interested in running for office, connecting them with the resources they need to be confident, successful politicians.

Janice Kovach truly believes in serving and helping others for the betterment of the community.

The award was well deserved and Ms. Johnson congratulated Mayor Kovach for being the person she is, the friend and mentor to so many. The Town won a free portal for our website.

Councilman Perloff

Councilman Perloff thanked everyone who has helped Mr. Bruno and himself to make the transition into the council positions.

6100

Recreation Committee – the first meeting will be January 20, 2022 but the Clinton Community Youth Athletics (CCYA) has already begun. Thank you to Councilwomen Johnson and Intrabartola for building such a strong volunteer community.

Economic Development – Councilman Perloff will meet with member, Liz Halpin, to review the sustainable plan and become familiar with it. The Committee is seeking a business owner to fill the vacant seat. Mr. Humphrey will take the roll of acting chair.

Clinton Guild is actively looking to expand and plan to re-organize soon.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of December 10 through December 23, 2021 and December 24, 2021 through January 6, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno seconded by Mr. Perloff, to approve the voucher list as attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor